Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10
PA-01 PM-05 H-01 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
/071 W
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O 191402Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9015
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPTUO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LAGOS 7552

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PMOPS, PINS, CF, XA, XJ, NI
SUBJECT: US AFRICAN POLICY: SHABA, SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 153145, (B) LAGOS 7433, (C) LAGOS 7406

1. FROM VARIOUS REMARKS, INCLUDING GARBA'S RECENT COMMENTS TO THE CHARGE (REFTEL B), WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE FMG CONSIDERS THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SHABA A PRIME ISSUE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE OAU SUMMIT AND THAT IT IS GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO THE POSITION IT SOULD TAKE ON THIS SUBJECT AT KHARTOUM. WE BELIEVE OBASANJO OR GARBA WOULD THEREFORE BE INTERESTED IN AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR PROBLEMS. IN THE FUTURE, ALTHOUGH WE MUST BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE TRYING TO TELL THEM WHAT TO DO AT KHARTOUM. WE DO NOT THINK
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THAT ANY SUCH DISCUSSION SOULD BE LIMITED TO A SINGLE PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACH. THE NIGERIANS WOULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF WE DISCUSSED THE RELATIVE MERITS OF A NUMBER OF APPROACHES WITH THEM, SO THAT NONE OF THEM WOULD BE CLEARLY TAGGED AS A US PRESCRIPTION WHICH WE SOUGHT TO HAVE THE FMG PROMOTE AT KHARTOUM.

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2. WE CAN SEE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES WITH THE VARIOUS APPROACHES CITED AS EXAMPLES IN AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S CABLE ON THIS SUBJECT BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEIR RELATIVE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES WILL BE CAREFULLY WEIGHTED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S STUDY. WE RECOMMEND THAT THIS STUDY ALSO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE APPROACHES:

(A) OAU MEMBERS MIGHT CONSIDER AT KHARTOUM THE ADVISABILITY OF SETTING UP A SYSTEM WHEREBY AN INTER-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE COULD BE SENT TO A CRITICAL AREA OF AFRICA IF TWO THIRDS OF THE MEMBER STATES AGREED TO SUCH ACTION.

(B) THE OAU MIGHT REQUEST CERTAIN NON-AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS SUCH AS THE US, THE USSR, CUBA AND FRANCE TO PROMISE PUBLICLY NOT TO SEND TROOPS OF THEIR OWN TO AFRICA FOR ANY PURPOSE EXCEPT UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UN OR THE OAU.

(C) OAU MEMBERS MIGHT ISSUE A DECLARATION THAT NO EXTRA-AFRICAN TROOPS SHOULD BE PRESENT IN AFRICA AFTER JANUARY 1, 1980 EXCEPT UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UN OR THE OAU.

(D) OAU MEMBERS MIGHT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN THEIR POWER TO INSURE THAT INDIVIDUALS RESIDING WITHIN THEIR TERRITORY DID NOT CROSS THE BORDER OF A NEIGHBORING STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBVERTING THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT STATE, PROMOTING

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SECESSION, OR CONDICTING OTHERILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. THE OAU COULD ESTABLISH A FACT-FINDING COMMISSION WHICH WOULD MAKE AN ON-THE-GROUND INVESTIGATION SHOULD THE OAU MEMBER CHARGE THAT ANOTHER MEMBER WAS VILATING THIS PLEDGE.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF PROPOSALS THE NIGERIANS ARE CURRENTLY SHAPING UP FOR THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT ON THIS SUBJECT. A CLUE MAY LIE IN THE SUGGESTION WE HAVE HEARD FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS, AND MOST RECENTLY EX-PRESSED IN REFTEL C, THAT THE BEST WAY TO STABLIZE THE BORDER BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE IS TO TRADE SECURITY AGAINST UNITA OPERATIONS FROM ZAIRIAN BASES FOR SECURITY AGAINST FNLC OPERATIONS FROM ANGOLAN BASES. THERE IS SOME RESENBLANCE BETWEEN SUCH THOUGHTS AND THE PROPOSAL WE HAVE OUTLINED IN PARA 2D ABOVE. IN ANY EVENT WE WILL ENDEAVOR IF POSSIBLE TO FIND OUT IN COMING DAYS AND WEEKS THE NATURE OF THE POSITION WHICH THE FMG IS LIKELY TO TAKE AT KHARTOUM ON THIS SUBJECT.

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